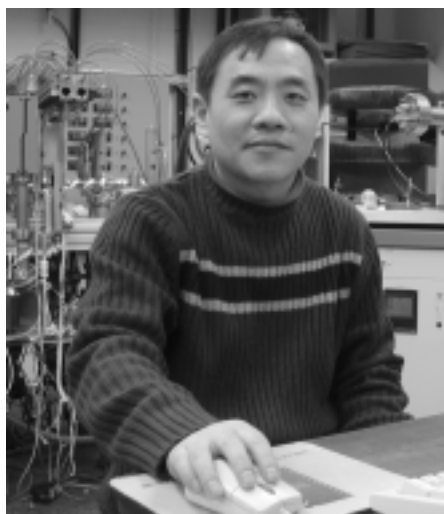


# NEW STAFF

## INTRODUCING XIFAN ZHANG

As with many things these days, I am “made in China” and spent most of my life there. When I attended college, students were assigned a major as a future career believed to best serve the country’s needs under a rigorous economic regime. I was of course assigned to geology, or more precisely, geochemistry. I voluntarily chose to stay in geology during the course of economic change in China, because it opened many other opportunities. After completing my MSc at the University of Science and Technology in Beijing, I became a faculty member and taught several geology courses. While teaching, I also held a part-time job as a consultant for an American distributor of rare Chinese minerals and fossils. A chance trip to attend the 1996 Tucson Mineral and Fossil Show led to my setting up an office for the company in Ohio, and eventually to



*Xifan Zhang, manager of the Rare Gas Geochronology Lab. Photo, Mary Diman.*

meeting my PhD advisor, Professor Ken Foland, at The Ohio State University. My dissertation focused on developing  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  laser microsampling techniques for dating altered continental flood basalts in Dronning Maud Land (Antarctica), and profiling argon distributions in phlogopite crystals from the Adirondack Mountains. After completing my PhD in 2001, I moved to MIT for a post-doc working with Professor Kip Hodges on the argon thermochronology of Western Greenland and the Central Himalaya. I was very excited to return to the Midwest in October 2003 and join

Brad Singer’s group as manager of the Rare Gas Geochronology Lab. Brad’s experience with dating young volcanic rocks and my expertise with older complex minerals and thermochronology now allow us to address a broad spectrum of geologic problems.

## NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS 2003-04

M’bark Baddouh, BS, Ibnou Zohr University, Morocco—Sed/Strat

Richard Becker, BS, University of Maine—Quaternary  
Francisco Correa-Mora, (semester 2), BS, University Nacional Autonoma de Mexico—Geophysics

Heidi Crosby, BS, University of Maine—Geochemistry

Kuwanna Dyer, BS, University of Nevada, Las Vegas—Sedimentology

Adam Eisenach, (semester 2) BS, UW-Madison—Paleontology

Amy Garbowicz, BA, Lawrence University—Sedimentology

Christopher Gordon, BS, University of Texas at Austin—Sed/Strat

Sarah Henry, BS, Texas A&M University—Metamorphic Petrology

Preeya Jirutthitjaroen, BS, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand—Sed/Strat

Tina Johnson, BS, University of Michigan; MS, University of Michigan—Paleoceanography

Nathaniel Keller, BA, Lawrence University—Hydrogeology

Melissa Masbruch, BS, University of Utah—Hydrogeology

Timothy Oleson, BS, Tufts—Geochemistry

Erik Olson, BS, University of Massachusetts, Amherst—Seismology

Skylar Primm, BS, University of New Orleans—Structural Geology

Aaron Shultis, BS, UW-Milwaukee Igneous—Petrology

Bradley Sleeth, BS, Illinois State University; MS, Northern Illinois University—Geomorphology

Caroline Webber, BS, College of William and Mary—Structural Geology